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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 412. FEBRUARY, 1941.

FAITH. HOPE. LOVE.

I. Cor. xiii. 13—"The Greatest of these is Love."

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NOTES AND NEWS.

At a public meeting in connection with the Devon Ministers' Conference, the late Rev. Jeffery Worthington, at one time assistant editor of *The Manchester Guardian*, described a sermon to which he had listened, by Archdeacon Farrar in Westminster Abbey, on the New Testament meaning of "Love," and extending his hands over the vast congregation, the Archdeacon concluded, "The Father is Love, the Son is Love, and the Holy Ghost is Love, yet there are not Three Loves, but One Love." But the word translated Love, a Bishop has recently pointed out, was a new word (Agape) and was coined for the special quality of love that Christ revealed. The word (Eros) which was in common use at the time of Christ's earthly life and which had been, so to speak, blessed by Plato's use of it, had so much of the self-interest, not to say bargaining element attaching to it, that it was quite unsuitable for the sort of love that our Lord taught and illustrated in His own life. It was St. Paul who first among New Testament writers gave us the word Agape, though St. John was the first to say boldly and deliberately "God is Love" (Agape). It was God's overflowing Love, was it not, that made the Universe? Think of space as empty, and then think of it as full of worlds, and all the mighty processes that are at work on them, and then think which would you rather have? Space that is empty or space that is full of worlds on which Evolution is unceasingly at work, bringing about the Eternal Purpose, for which the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain until now, waiting for the manifestation of the Son of God.

Thoughts like these lift us away from being absorbed too much in the great world tragedy that every day is growing in momentum.

In the covering letter containing the notice of the special service attended by troops on Christmas Sunday, necessarily at an earlier hour than the regular one, it was indicated that the intention was to repeat such services and that it would be a great boon if the congregation could have the facilities for a complete "black-out" in order that evening services should be held. The letter itself not having been for publication, we are afraid we did not give full attention to the suggested appeal. We should all like to see the old Antrim Meeting House made more than ever a centre of increased activity. The revival that has been there in recent years is something we are all glad to know about, and we are sure that Ulster friends will give what help they can.

* * *

With reference to the late Dean Stanley and his avowal of himself as being "as much a Unitarian as Dr. Martineau," it was interesting to note the extent to which Dr. Martineau's prayers entered into the devotional preliminary to the Archbishop of Canterbury's address broadcasted on the last Sunday evening of 1940.

* * *

The suggestion as to a "musical column" has evidently been favourably received among our readers "Congregational singing" is one of the most important subjects to which we can devote attention, and as far as our very limited capacity permits we will welcome contributions.

* * *

We have been honoured by a suggestion from an esteemed lady correspondent who considers the magazine might be lightened by verse more frequently than is the case,

and verses under the titles of "Good Resolutions on New Year's Eve," "Lines," and "Eastertide," are enclosed and are being handed to the printer for use at the first opportunity, and "verse writers" have been suggested, to get into touch with. We are grateful for this kind assistance, and realize that our little denomination in Ireland makes up in potency what it lacks numerically and that there are valuable resources to be drawn upon. May we be able to keep the springtime in our hearts, whatever we forebode.

* * *

March, 1941, number published on Saturday, February 22nd. Copy sent in before February 15th will be received by Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

* * *

Several items that have come in, we are obliged to hold over for lack of space.

Crumlin—The annual party for the children was held on Wednesday, Jan. 8th, at the Manse. There was a full attendance, space and seating accommodation being used to the full. Economy and rationing seemed to detract nothing from the plenty at tea time and certainly detracted nothing from the beauty of the Christmas tree. After tea the time passed quickly with games, pulling of crackers and the presentation of such Christmas gifts as the times allow. Annie Aiken and David Moore recited short pieces. Thanks are due to the friends who provided provisions and funds and to the lady who prepared the table and dressed the tree.

* * *

Ballyclare—On Thursday evening, 19th Dec., the annual children's party was held in Victoria Hall, where there was a good attendance of parents aud friends. After tea a very happy time was spent in games and music, which included some carols by the scholars.

In awarding the prizes for attendance during the year, Rev. W. Howard Payne said 1940 was a record year, practically every scholar having made a full attendance. He then called upon Mrs. Payne, his mother, to present the prizes. The teachers, Miss Laird and Miss Kerr, also received books, in presenting which, Mrs. Payne paid tribute to their work in the Sunday School. Towards the close of the evening Santa Claus appeared, and from a well filled sack produced a gift for each child present. The evening closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

THE ORPHAN SOCIETY.

Collectors are requested to kindly begin their work as soon as possible and to send in their completed collections to the Local Treasurer before the 21st March. This is to ensure every congregation being mentioned in the annual report. It has happened that a congregation has reported just too late, and though the money has been collected, no mention has been made of it until the subsequent year, which is a very unfortunate circumstance. The Assistant Secretary in place of the late Rev. Alfred Turner is now the Rev. R. W. Wilde, M.A., B.Sc., 26 Cadogan Park, Belfast.

SUBSIDY FUND.

An anonymous P.O. for 15/- for this Fund has arrived on New Year's morning. Blessing on the giver!

Contributions should be addressed to Rev. A. Davison, Dromore, by whom they will be gratefully acknowledged.

Ards District—The Rev. Daniel Palmer, Presbyterian Minister of Cloughey and Portavogie, was well-known and greatly esteemed by many in our denomination, especially in the neighbourhood of Ballyhemlin and Dromore. A scholarly man, he kept up his studies to the end, preparing students for the University and had the use of the Unitarian Hall, Dromore, over thirty years ago for teaching, and also inspected schools under the General Assembly in religious knowledge. He was chairman of the Brown's Trust, Kirkcubbin. Only as recently as November 19th we were motored by him from a meeting of that Trust to Rocklands, Kirkcubbin. He was eighty years of age, and died at the Manse, Cloughey, Co. Down, on December 29th. He took a keen interest in the L.D.V. Force.

DEATHS.

KELLY—January 6th, at "The Glebe," Dunmurry, the Rev. John Alexander Kelly.

MORELAND—At Ballyhalbert, Co. Down, on Saturday, January 11th, 1941, Ellen, widow of the late Joseph Moreland, R N.

Lawrence House Hostel, 1 Essex Street, London, W.C.2., is closed until further notice owing to the present situation in London.

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCHES.

A FORWARD MOVEMENT BEGINS.

BY THE REV. R. W. WILDE, M.A., B.Sc.

In 1942 we shall be celebrating, along with our orthodox Presbyterian friends, the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.

I say "Non-Subscribing," because the Non-Subscribing was the *original* Presbyterian Church. Non-subscription was the keynote and method of the early Presbyterian Church founded in this island. It was only later that "subscription" (or under-writing) of the Westminster Confession was insisted upon, and it is important to realise that this was *a new principle* introduced. To our way of thinking it was a vicious principle. For to tie men down to any statement of belief, however noble and august, is to fetter a church irrevocably to the past; to make what once may have been good the unquestioned standard for all time; and to shut the door to any new truth, or larger revelation of God, that the passing years may bring. Against that principle our forefathers stood out. To champion spiritual freedom, they bore jibes, indignities, obliquies, and cheerfully endured the loss of fame, money, social position, and sometimes even life itself. It is with a large price that we have been bought.

* * * * *

But to return to my original theme,—in 1942 we shall be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the founding of our Church. Few of us, looking back, can feel too happy. For, when one considers the sacrifices and sufferings of our spiritual forefathers, the toils and efforts and prayers of those who went before us, we seem hardly to have maintained worthily this rich and costly thing which has come into our hands. The early promise of our own Movement has not been fulfilled; we who have retained the Non-Subscribing faith have not built up the mighty and conquering church which our forefathers in their noblest dreams envisaged.

Doubtless some of this failure is due to things which we, and those who went before us, could not control. Perhaps our ancestors in the faith were too prone to believe that men were open to reason and clear logic and historical demonstration. Perhaps, too, men in large numbers are a little afraid of being entirely free—afraid of where a really free church may go.

* * * * *

But some of the failure rests upon us. We have not been as loyal as we might have been; we have not worked as we should have done; we have not prayed as we might; and we have not sacrificed as they sacrificed who once, in a far-away time, bought for us our spiritual heritage.

* * * * *

The past is gone, beyond recall, however. The future still is ours. What are we to make of the future? What are we to *do* with it? What is to be the history of this Church of ours during the next century, the next 300 years?

These are far questions, and none of us can see clearly the answers. What we *can* do is to build as well as we know how in this present day and generation, do our best to ensure that we leave a worthy heritage to those who shall follow after us.

* * * * *

One urgent need is to improve the financial position of our Churches. That may seem like putting the cart before the horse, like seeking a spiritual revival by material means. But actually material means are very important. Even spiritual activities have to take on physical shape. Even a church needs sound finance. And finance is often the revelation of spiritual condition. Men and women will always pay generously towards what they *really* value!

The financial situation of our Church leaves much to be desired. A number of our ministers are living at what is virtually the level of actual poverty. Some of our churches are so poor that they cannot hope to maintain a settled minister, and the number of these seems likely to grow. The income of the Church as a whole is falling—partly because of the dying-off of old adherents, and partly because investments are yielding less to-day. With things as they are, we cannot hope to invite our own Irish students to our Irish pulpits, where most fittingly they should find a place.

Finance is not everything. But it is something. And it is something important.

* * * * *

Actually, a forward move has begun! We shall be in a position to announce shortly

to the readers of this journal a courageous effort to tackle the kind of problems I have hinted at above, A personal letter will shortly reach each member of the Churches through the post. And this letter will disclose a far-reaching and ambitious scheme!

But it will not be a scheme which starts, so to speak, from nothing. **It has already obtained the approval, and practical and generous support, of a number of our most influential laymen and lay-women.** Our ministers also are rising enthusiastically to the call. In this magazine, from time to time, we shall be making pronouncements upon it, and advising our readers of what has been done.

Meantime, we feel confident that our people, up and down the country, will enthusiastically respond. They will not willingly allow any of our churches to suffer extinction. The way made clear, they will do all that lies in their power to strengthen and revivify the life of our Churches. It is a costly heritage into which we have come Our forefathers paid a great price that it might be ours. There is nothing too much that we can do for it in our day and place.

"CROSSING THE BAR."

The hymn beginning: "Sunset and evening star," sung at the funeral of Viscount Craigavon, is 475 in "Hymns of Worship," which is in use in most of our churches.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar. TENNYSON.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian."

"CHURCH PRAISE."

Dear Sir,—Heartily endorse suggestion in this month's magazine; only fault, give us a page, not a column. Best wishes for the suggestion.—Yours truly,

30/12/40. WM. B. HANNA.

Dear Sir,—The suggestion that was made by one of your city organists is splendid, and deserves to be adopted. It will no doubt have a great influence on the life of your Churches, and help in the raising of congregational appreciation of music.

I am not a member of your Church, but write to give it my support, as it deserves.—Yours truly,

FRANCIS G. QUIGLEY.

Sir,—May I, a not very skilled member of a small church choir, say that I think Mr. Woolley's suggestion in your last issue that a Music Column be opened in "The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian" an excellent one.

Songs of praise and thanksgiving should be amongst the most joyous and uplifting elements in a church service, and yet it seems to me that congregati-ns are, generally speaking, becoming muter and muter and leaving the singing to whatever choir there may be. An endeavour to establish a musical "causerie" in which the interest of all, congregation and choir members alike, in good music may be stimulated, and through which useful knowledge may be spread amongst choirs and choirmasters is, therefore, to be encouraged.

Again—as has been remarked by several leading N.S. Presbyterians in my hearing—our Church has little or no denominational sense or feeling. We tend to remain in isolated congregational groups. And isolation, in the case of a church as in the case of a nation, is never splendid: is indeed quite the opposite. For this reason also such common meeting ground as the proposal now before us would provide (and as, for example, our three Church Leagues already provide) should be welcomed.

Fundamentally, of course, it is their interest in music that will attract peop'e to Mr. Woolley's suggestion—and tö that interest there can be scarcely any limit, albeit much of it will be not at all expert. I am sure Mr. Woolley will agree that the "causerie" would have to be edited by one or two musicians

Properly edited it should provide much profit and pleasure.—Yours truly,

Belfast. ALEX. CORBETT.

Dear Sir—When reading this month's "Non-Subscriber," I was pleased to see a letter from the organist of York St. about a Musical Column. It is a capital suggestion, and will doubtlessly result in better congregational singing, and give an additional interest in the services. The one who suggested the scheme would in my estimation be the best person to give it a good send off, as he has practical experience of choral and organ work in the church and outside.

Good luck to the suggestion and may others be forthcoming.—Yours etc.,

D. NULLITT.

Dear Sir,—As a choir member I think the suggestion contained in the letter by Mr. N. Woolley in last month's issue of "The Non-Subscriber," is an excellent suggestion and should be given every encouragement.

Allow me to congratulate the writer of the letter for the wide scope of his matter, and looking forward to a real musical column by the writer of the letter.—Yours etc..

LESLIE J. STUART.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the letter in the January issue from Mr. Woolley re the possibility of a column being allotted to the musical side of our services, I think his suggestion is quite reasonable and should be encouraged. I have no doubt that in many cases criticisms would be severe, but the results therefrom might be most beneficial to all concerned.

In most of our churches the members of the choir are the best attenders at our Services and give their time and services freely in all the work connected with the church and I for one shall be glad that Mr. Woolley's suggestion can be acceded to.

Of course I understand that without the co-operation of other organists and our musical friends, the venture will not be a success.—Yours faithfully,

J. SHANNON.

R.S.U.

Dear Sir,—At the Synod meeting of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster held at Belfast, in June, it was stated that reserve copies of the Constitution and Code of Discipline of the said Synod, had been exhausted for some time, and it was known that several ministers and congregations under the jurisdiction of the Synod, were without copies. It was then decided to print new copies at the earliest possible moment.

Unfortunately, for several reasons, mainly of a material nature, it is impossible to undertake this service straight away, although no lengthy delay is anticapated.

May I now ask any ministers and congregations within the R.S.U. who have spare copies, also any friends outside the Synod, who have copies they do not require to send on the same to the address below. They will be gratefully received and usefully applied.

If such copies are accompanied by a request, new copies will be sent to the donors when the reprint is issued.—Yours faithfully,

A. G. PEASTON, (clerk).

The Manse, Templepatrick,

1644 ?

Dear Sir,—In these days the erection of a Sessions coincides generally with the formation of a new congregation, members having certificates or letters of dismissal from other congregations. Three centuries ago our forefathers moved more slowly, so that the date of the erection of a Session in those far off days is not conclusive as to formation of congregation. A notable example is Killinchy. According to McCreery in his *Presbyterian Ministers of Killyleagh*, John Bole, in addition to Killyleagh had charge of a congregation in Killinchy from 1622 until 1630, when John Livingston was installed there. Livingston in his *Historical Narrative* writes of this charge, "Not only had we public worship free of the inventions of men, but we had tolerable discipline, for after I had been somewhile among them, by the advice of heads of families, some ablest for that charge were chosen Elders to oversee the manners of the rest, and some Deacons to gather and distribute the collections. We met every week, and such as fell into notorious public scandals we desired to come before us."

The Code, Sec. 7—"A Session consists of the Minister or Ministers and the lay Elders of a particular congregation." Apparently Killinchy had not one for over eight years.

The late Rev. Alex. Gordon was acknowledged by Presbyterians of all sections as an authority on their Church history, having devoted much time to searches in Edinburgh, Dublin and London. He asserted that the First Congregation, Belfast, dated from 1642 and I have not seen that statement contradicted.—Yours truly,

H. J. F. ORR.

Belfast, 3rd Dec., 1940.

OBITUARY.

REV. J. A. KELLY.

We regret to announce the death, which took place at his residence, The Glebe, Dunmurry, of Rev. John Alexander Kelly, aged 84 years, who, for close on half a century, was minister of Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church.

Born at Ballyalton, Downpatrick, where members of his family still reside, Rev. Mr. Kelly resigned as minister of Dunmurry Unitarian Church last December.

He was educated at the Home Missionary College, and at Owen's College, Manchester, and was minister of the first Kilmore Remonstrant (Non-Subscribing) Presbyterian Church at Rademon, near Crossgar, Co. Down, from 1880 till 1890.

From 1890 until last month Mr. Kelly had been the esteemed minister of the First Presbyterian (Non-Subscribing) Church, Dunmurry, in the pastorate of which he succeeded the late Rev. T. H. Scott, M A. He was a cultured and efficient speaker, alike in the pulpit and on the platform, and enjoyed the esteem of people of all classes and denominations. For upwards of forty years he was treasurer of the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and of the Non-Subscribing Churchof Ireland.

In 1915 the Rev. Mr. Kelly had the distinction of being appointed to the Moderatorship of the Non-Subscribing Church of Ireland, and he discharged the duties of the office with the same energy and zeal that characterised him in every other position he occupied during his long and useful life

A distinguished member of the Masonic Order, he was initiated in Stewartstown Lodge, No, 783, Dunmurry, in 1899, and became W.M. in 1905. In 1911 and again in 1920 he was elected Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, an office in which he remained until the time of his death. He was also Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ireland for 1936-37.

Since 1903 the Rev. Mr. Kelly had been a representative member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, and always took an active and useful interest in welfare of that great school. He was also a Governor of the Linenhall Library.

For well over thirty years he had been a prominent member of the Independent Order of Foresters,in recognition of which "faithful services" he was, in the autumn of 1926, made the recipient of a "Veterans' Jewel." A number of Dublin and Southern members of the organization were present on the interesting occasion, at which the High Chief Ranger (Bro. Frank Walker) presided. It was stated by the Chairman that "wherever Forestry was known, Bro. Kelly was known and highly esteemed."

Rev. Mr. Kelly is survived by his son, Mr. John Kelly, and his daughter, Mrs. H. C. Hicks, to both of whom the sincere sympathy of a wide circle of friends has been extended in their bereavement.—*Belfast Telegraph.*

The funeral of the Rev. J. A. Kelly, minister of Dunmurry Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, took place to the Old Graveyard at Dunmurry. The principal mourners were Mr. John Kelly (son), Messrs. H. W. Kelly and J. N. Kelly (brothers), and Messrs. H. R. Hicks and C. J. Hicks (grandsons). The Lord Chief Justice was also present. Mr. H. H. Mussen (chairman) and Mr. C. J. McKisack represented the Governors of Royal Belfast Academical Institution, of which Mr. Kelly was a member. Mr. John W. Gilmour, Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Antrim, and other prominent Freemasons attended. At the services in the home, the church and at the graveside, the following officiated :— The Rev. R. A. Bell, the Rev. J. Barron, the Rev. J. G. Davies (moderator), the Rev. J. J. Magill, the Rev. J. McCleery and the Rev. F. Munford.

At the close of the proceedings there was a brief Masonic ceremony, when sprigs of acacia were cast into the grave by the Brethren present ; and the last salute according to the rank of the deceased was given in silence.

The following is a copy of an illuminated address drawn up by the Presbytery of Bangor on the occasion of the retirement of the late Rev. J. A. Kelly :—

REMONSTRANT SYNOD OF ULSTER.

PRESBYTERY OF BANGOR.

Dear Mr Kelly,

The members of the Presbytery of Bangor cannot allow your retirement from the active duties of the Ministry to pass without assuring you of their recognition of the important part you have taken in the religious life of our

denomination for the almost unprecedented period of over sixty years. During that time you have never failed to serve our congregations with that remarkable energy with which you were so richly endowed.

To this Presbytery you acted as Clerk for a life-time, and by your wise counsel, deep experience, business ability, sympathetic understanding, and approachability rendered the greatest help in overcoming difficulties and preserving that spirit of goodwill, harmonious action, and brotherly feeling which is characteristic of this Court. You have not only been a father amongst us, but a dearly-loved brother.

It has lately caused much sorrow to all of us to notice the signs of increasing infirmity, making impossible your former activity, and we were forced to see that the time could not be far distant when the mantle worn by you so long and honourably must be passed on to younger shoulders. You have decided the fitting time has arrived.

Your genial presence will be much missed at our meetings, but our thoughts will be with you, and our prayer will be that the Heavenly Father will grant you His richest blessing, giving you many years of life with good health, peace and happiness.

Signed on behalf of the Presbytery,

J. GLYNNE DAVIES.
J. J. MAGILL.
J. MCCLEERY.

This 31st day of December, 1940.

——:o:——

Mr. George Parker, Templepatrick.

The church records with deep regret the passing of George Parker, Sheepheads, Ligoniel, on November 13th.

Mr. Parker was in the direct line of many generations of stalwart supporters of the old Presbyterian Church.

Applying his religious faith to the concerns of every-day life he was frank, fearless and sincere, and was widely respected for his uprightness and general integrity of character.

Painstaking and industrious, he carried on his work upon the farm without complaint for many months, despite weakness and pain. Providentially, his sufferings at the end were not prolonged and he died strong in the faith of his fathers before him.

Much sympathy is expressed for his sister, who shared his home, and with all other relatives and friends.

REPORTS.

Banbridge—The moon almost at the full slightly cloudy, but lovely sharp clear air was the weather for our Annual Party, held on Friday, 10th January, in the Dunbar Memorial School. As usual it was a really happy gathering with the hardy perennials of "The Grand old Duke of York," "The Farmer wants a Wife" and "Musical Arms." Mrs. Helen Stevenson with apparently tireless fingers, accompanied at the piano. Ladies as usual, and the usual ladies, dispensed an excellent tea and cakes.

After tea, Miss McCaw graciously handed the Sunday School and League of Loyalty book prizes to the fortunate winners, with appropriate greeting to each. The best attendance both at Sunday School and Church was recorded by Evelyne Godding and very close on her good attendance followed Jim and Muriel Davidson. These three were loudly clapped. The minister introdrced the distribution with a short homily on the value of the Sunday School throughout our lives. He also referred to the long and loving devotion of Miss McKeown to the school of which she was superintendent and conscientious teacher.

There was a momentary dimming of the lights and on their restoration, lo! Father Christmas appeared, standing before a table covered with an array of varied goods. After a welcome everyone received a gift from him. Although this kindly old man did not wear a tin helmet, yet below his long red cloak we did see Army boots and a peep of khaki. Also half-a-dozen serving soldiers joined heartily in the fun of the evening.

Shortly after 10 p.m. the threefold Benediction was pronounced, the National Anthem sung and so ended one of our best gatherings with heartfelt prayers that next time Father Christmas visits us the world may be at peace.

Three minutes after all had left, the sirens sounded.

Killinchy—The Sunday School party was held on Friday evening, 20th December, commencing at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Hall. There was a good attendance of children and members of the congregation, who were entertained to tea. The traditional hymn, "From year to year in love we meet," was sung by the children just before tea was served. When the tables were cleared games were commenced by the Rev. A. M. Bell assisted by Mr. Frank Osborne and Mr.

Hamilton Morrow, when young and old joined in. A short programme followed. Mandolin solos by Miss M. McClements, recitations by Mrs. H. Morrow and accordian solos by Mr. Craig Kenmore. Miss Russell was at the piano and played the music for games, etc., in her capable manner. Book prizes were presented to scholars for attendance during the year by Mrs. Wm. Stewart (*nee* Miss S. Osborne, who had been a faithful scholar, pianist and teacher for a good number of years until her marriage, which took place on Oct. 1st, 1940. Her husband also was a faithful member of the Sunday School until a few years ago, and both are members of the choir and Dramatic Society. On the eve of their wedding Rev. A. M. Bell and Mr. J. K. Williams, on behalf of the Sunday School, Choir and Dramatic Society, presented them with a beautiful clock.) Miss McMaster on behalf of the Women's League, presented money prizes to those children who had a combined Sunday School and Church attendance. Their names were as follows; Mary McIlwrath, Alex. Geddis, Sadie McCormack, Nellie Irvine, Marshall Magowan, David McIlwrath and Harry Finlay. Mr. Bell expressed thanks to the Women's League for their kindness, and they have renewed their promise of the same gift for 1941.

Santa Claus next made his appearance with a well-filled sack from which every child got a gift.

The hearty singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a very happy evening to a close.

Ministers of Antrim and Down—The 347th meeting was held on Jan. 6th, 1941, at the Carlton Resturant, Belfast, the Rev. John McCleery, B.A., S.T.M., Newry, being the host. The reader of the paper was the Rev. W. Howard Payne of Ballyclare. From reports which have reached us, the paper was an excellent one, and the discussion informative and animated.

Ballyhemlin—Prize distribution took place after service on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 5th, in the Session Room. The books were given out by F. M. Allen, Esq., Nunsquarter.

All Souls, Belfast—Mr. Wilde's visit is a public expression of personal interest in All Souls, and also of the good wishes of the First Church and the Presbytery of Antrim. His New Year letter will be an encouragement to all who have at heart the welfare of the church. The year just begun, will be one of great trial for all churches as well as for the Empire, and I would like to emphasise the appeal he makes, that all connected with the Church should prove their loyalty by worshipping with us as regularly as possible. —J. Shaw Brown.

Antrim—On Xmas day, and at Watch Night Service on New Year's eve, we had many visitors from the Forces, who enjoyed worshipping in the old church. The devotional parts were conducted by the minister, and the addresses given by Lt. Taylor. On the first Sunday of the New Year, an Army chaplain conducted parade service, when our own members and other civilians also joined.

During the forthcoming weeks it is proposed to hold evening services on Sundays, when we hope the pulpit will be occupied by Lt. Taylor and other Army Officers, and the music provided by an Army choir and orchestra.

We have completed our black-out and are also anxious to retile the roof and refloor the old vestry. Voluntary labour from the troops is offered in their spare time and money is required for slates and cement. Our congregation is small, and perhaps there are many Unitarians in Ulster who would like to assist us with donations as an appreciation of the welfare work we feel could be done with suitable accommodation for a reading and writing room in this district. Hardly any facilities are available for members of the Forces stationed around, and as our old church plays a prominent part in the parade services, we are anxious to do our share in the welfare work, especially in the dark winter evenings. Contributions may be sent for the special purpose to Rev. G. Vance Crook, The Manse, Antrim, Ulster.

We regret to record the death, on January 12th, of Miss May Smith, eldest daughter of the late Rev. W. S. Smith, who was minister of our Antrim Congregation for over forty years.

First Church, Belfast—The choir provided an excellent Carol Service on the evening of December 22nd.

The minister has commenced a new series of Sunday evening addresses on "What *can* a man believe?" These will deal with science, the Bible, human nature, God, Jesus Christ, the problem of evil, immortality and the like. It is hoped and believed that this series will attract the attention of visitors from outside

The Women's League has arranged for four practical demonstrations on "Cooking in War-time," to be given by an expert from the Ministry of Food The first of these took place on Wednesday, January 8th, and proved extremely informative and interesting. These lecture-demonstrations are being thrown open to members of other League branches, and indeed, to all interested. On the first occasion over forty ladies were present.

The Discussion Circle met on the afternoon of Sunday, January 12th, when the meeting was devoted to an open discussion on "What are your war aims?" Many interesting suggestions were put forward, and the afternoon proved eminently worth while.

It is with regret that we record the death of Miss Greta Hewitt, at the untimely age of 19. She died on Jan. 8th, and was buried in the family grave at Comber, on January 11th. We extend our sincere sympathy to her sorrowing family.

We are glad to have with us at Sunday services, and occasionally at week-night activities, members of the various Forces who are not normally resident in Belfast. To our own members on active service we extend once again our cordial good wishes and remembrances.

Belfast, York St.—The third session of our Model Parliament took place on Monday, January 13th. Speeches were confined to younger members while the more experienced willingly did the organising work. The hall was well filled and we were glad to see members from Mountpottinger and First Church at the services.

With increasing numbers of our people occupied on Sunday, or prevented from being with us, we are surprised and pleased to find the church still full on Sunday evenings. It is also expected that the Annual Report will show a stipend of over £400 in a year, when heavy claims have been made on our members for the building and Endowment Fund, and when many of our members are finding things very difficult.

The Endowment Fund continues to grow and has now reached £1212. Every member of the congregation has now given, the amount subscribed by those on the Members' Roll amounting to about £700. This makes about £1100 given by members to the church during the year without considering collections and subscriptions to various objects. The Fund must now grow more slowly, but while we can meet our expenses, every effort in the church and the proceeds of all social or educational activities will be added to the Endowment Fund.

The amount subscribed by friends in the Denomination and others outside it has now reached £354. We acknowledge with thanks the following amounts received since our last report:—Dr. David Calwell, £1 1s; Mrs. Waugh (2nd contribution), 10/-; Ballycarry Congregation, £1 1s; Dr. Wm. Calwell, £5; Stanhope St. Young People and Rev. W. O. Rowland, £3 5s.

Greetings and small tokens have been sent to all our members in the Services whom it has been possible to reach. Our church seems to be growing in popularity with officers and men of all Services, and we are doing our best to entertain them both in the church and in the homes of our people.

Holywood—The annual Sunday School party and Christmas tree was held on Jan. 4th. To combat the blackout the party was held from 4 to 6 p.m. A large number of children sat down to tea, and the minister and teachers were glad to welcome a number of parents and other members of congregation. A fairy play, "Jessie's Dream," was presented by a number of the children. Father Christmas (Mr. J. Shannon) appeared in the Dream and gave presents from the Christmas tree to the younger children at the conclusion of the play. Dances were given by Barbara and Peggy Meneely and recitations by Adele Wilson and Denis Meneely. The Sunday school prizes were distributed by Mr J. W. Harvey. A cinema show concluded the entertainment. Thanks of the teachers are offered to Mrs. Hunter Smyth for the Christmas tree and to Master W. Patterson for the use of his cinema.

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COMFORTS FOR THE FORCES.

Dear Editor,—Mrs. Drummond of Larne, Mrs. Wilson of Holywood and Mrs. Watson, matron of the Holiday Homes in Derbyshire, have to be thanked for gifts of woollens; 2/6 from Mrs. Watson of Comber. The Sunday School Association is now sending leaflets and messages to our men. I have received many letters of thanks from the men for the Christmas parce s.

Holywood.—"The gift of woollens were just what I required. It is difficult to express in words just what one feels, but should be glad if you and your workers would accept my grateful thanks."

Holywood—"I take the greatest of pleasure n thanking you for the parcel received. It was one of the fortunate ones off the Empress of Britain. I am sure the woollens will come in handy, with me coming from a warm climate and as I lost all my personal belongings."

Ballyhemlin--"We are very busy but I want to thank the League for the parcel and to wish you all a happy New Year."

Larne—"We don't get much time to ourselves here, but I want to convey my greatest thanks for the splendid parcel."

Larne—I was very much delighted at getting your card. It was very nice indeed to think of me, as you know how much we appreciate getting some token of remembrance. I attend church as regularly as I can, it gives one a sense of feeling, somehow I can't explain it, but you should know what I mean."

Banbridge—"Your kindness in remembering me is very much appreciated."

Banbridge—"I can't find words to thank you for a most useful gift, it was very useful."

Dromore—Thank you for your magnificent gesture, it was very welcome."

Moneyrea—A most thoughtful, useful and generous gift."

Comber—"Please thank the workers of the articles very much."

Dear Mrs. Davies,—Thank you all so much for the very welcome presents. I am sure that they will be more than acceptable on the voyage and after. The quantity of knitting that must go on throughout the District in order to provide such gifts for the troops must be colossal. I am sure that I speak for everyone when I say that we appreciate it very very much. Thoughts of home and the friends we have made go with us where ever we may go. Those thoughts and memories are our most cherished posessions.

The Sunday School Association is now sending a leaflet and letter to our men. It is this keeping in touch with our people that is the essential work of Fellowship. I hear that some relatives have refrained from sending the names of their menfolk in the Forces because they do not want parcels to be sent, their menfolk having all they want, but there is the feeling of being thought of as one of a fellowship that is valuable to the men themselves.

EDITH DAVIES.

William Martin Hunter.

Exactly a fortnight after the death of his wife, William Martin Hunter, of Ardmore, Lough Shore, Crumlin, passed away on Sat. Dec. 28th, at the age of 93. For some time he had been aware that the end was approaching and feared not nor complained. With sight and hearing failing he maintained intelligent connection with the outside world, using such slender means of communication as remained to him to the uttermost. Neither weakness nor the knowledge of death's nearness could drive him into self-centredness; there was thought for others unto the last. As he goes from us we are proud to think that he was of our faith and of our church. Again we offer deepest sympathy to sons and daughter. He was interred at the New Cemetery, Antrim, on Monday, Dec. 30th, the Rev. John Hinkins officiating.

— The Unitarian and — Free Christian Men's League.

BELFAST CHAPTER

—:o:—

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THE UNITARIAN CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL PROGRESS IN ENGLAND. By Raymond V. Holt, M.A., B.Litt.

A book from Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., another publishing firm, has also been taken over and the price changed from 6/- to 2/6, namely:—

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